OREGON

ITS HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND RESOURCES

JOHN H. MITCHELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM OREGON

WASHINGTON
PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
1905

Price 50 cents

XUM

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[For use if inconvenient to buy tickets personally from the Secretary or some member of the Committee.]

....., *April*....., *1895.*

Mr. EVERETT HAYDEN, *Secretary, National Geographic Society,*
1515 H Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR:

I enclose { check / P. O. order } payable to your order for $.....in payment for....., round-trip ticket.., at $2.00 apiece, for the excursion to Fredericksburg, Saturday, **May** 4 (B. & P. R. R. Station, 9 a. m.). Please send the tickets to me at above address.

Of those who will use the tickets,.....desire to be supplied with box luncheons on the grounds, at 50 cents each, and.....will probably get dinner at the hotel.

Yours truly,

.....
Member, National Geographic Society.

[NOTE—It should be understood that if cash or stamps be enclosed in payment that it is done at the risk of the sender. On receipt of this order the tickets ordered will be returned by next mail; if not received promptly, write at once, and if the tickets have been lost or stolen they will be cancelled; their acceptance refused by the conductor, and new ones issued in their stead.]

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National Geographic Society

Announcement of the Seventh Annual Excursion and Field Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1895

The Board of Managers of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY take pleasure in announcing that a field meeting will be held at Fredericksburg on Saturday, May 4, 1895. Weather favoring, the meeting will be held in the open air, in Buckner's grove, on Hazel run, about 2,500 feet south of the station. This locality, which is within a hundred yards of the point on the railway at which the train will stop, is admirably adapted for such a purpose. The excursion will be made, rain or shine; should the weather be unfavorable, the meeting will be held in the capacious opera-house in the city. The more formal exercises will be followed by a basket picnic.

A cordial invitation to attend the excursion is extended to our own members and also to the members of all the Scientific Societies of Washington represented in the Joint Commission.

A special train will leave the Pennsylvania station at 9 a. m.; returning, will leave Fredericksburg at 4 p. m., reaching Washington at 6 p. m. Round-trip tickets, at $2.00, will be supplied to members and their friends by the Secretary or members of the Committee; no other expense will be necessary. A baggage-car and smoker will be attached. The train will reach Fredericksburg station at 10.45, and will stop to take on the Fredericksburg party.

PROGRAM

1. **Calling to Order and Introductory Remarks, by President HUBBARD** . . . . . **5 minutes**
2. **Address of welcome on the part of the City, by Honorable A. P. ROWE, Mayor of Fredericksburg** . . . **5 minutes**
3. **Address on the part of the State of Virginia, by Major JED HOTCHKISS, of Staunton** . . . . . **5 minutes**
4. **Fredericksburg Past and Present, by Reverend R. R. HOWISON, of Braehead (near Fredericksburg)** . **15 minutes**
5. **Geographic History of the Rappahannock Valley, by W J McGEE, of Washington** . . . . . **15 minutes**
6. **Local Points and Events, by W. SEYMOUR WHITE, Esquire** . . . . . **10 minutes**

The addresses, especially that by Mr White, will refer to points of interest which members of the Society may visit during the afternoon. The formal program will be followed by a picnic along the spring creek passing through the grove, or on the shady banks of Hazel run.

Members preferring not to carry baskets can dine at the hotels in Fredericksburg; and the proprietor of the Exchange hotel will provide luncheon for those who desire, at fifty cents each, delivered in the grove.

About 1 o'clock parties will be formed, under the direction of conductors, to visit (1) Lee's Fort, from which a magnificent view of the Rappahannock valley may be enjoyed; (2) the National Cemetery; (3) the Marye mansion and "Sunk road" (points of note in the history of the war); (4) the Mary Washington monument; (5) the Mary Washington house in the city of Fredericksburg; (6) the historic village of Falmouth; (7) points of special geographic interest between Falmouth and Fredericksburg. The walk to all these points and return will be about six miles; the walk to the second, third, fourth, and fifth points and return will be about a mile. The hack service of Fredericksburg will be found adequate and reasonable for those who prefer to drive.

Returning, the train will leave the picnic ground on Hazel run at 4 o'clock, and will leave the station at 4.06 sharp. Members may take the train at either place.

The accompanying map, reproduced from the original copy prepared by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., through the courtesy of the War Department, represents the topographic features of Fredericksburg and environs, and locates many points of special interest. Those who desire will be supplied also (on the train) with copies of the United States Geological Survey "Fredericksburg sheet," showing a much larger area, through the courtesy of the Director of the Survey.

It is a pleasure to announce that the municipal officers of Fredericksburg, with ladies, and the Mary Washington Monument Association of Fredericksburg, as well as many of the citizens, will participate in the meeting.

Members desiring to attend the field meeting will oblige by advising the Secretary or Committee and making application for the number of tickets required for themselves and friends; and if they wish to take dinner or have luncheon supplied in Fredericksburg, they are requested to so state. The office of the Secretary, 1515 H street, will be open for this purpose from 9 to 10, April 29 to May 3, inclusive, and the last three days from 12 to 5 also.

Through the kindness of the Mary Washington Monument Association, special facilities will be afforded for the inspection of the Mary Washington house; and through the courtesy of Major Rowe and Mr A. P. Rowe, Junior, the grounds about the Marye mansion will be thrown open to the party.

Fredericksburg is a point of exceptional historic and scientific interest, and the holding of a field meeting there has been in contemplation for some years. It is the opinion of the Managers that no more attractive locality for such a meeting can be found. In order to enhance the interest, it has been arranged that the regular meeting of the Society in the National Rifles' Hall, 920 G street, on the evening preceding, shall be devoted to the geographic and historic features of the section about Fredericksburg, with the following program:

Fredericksburg and Vicinity; a Symposium Preparatory to the Field-day

Friday, May 3, 8 p. m., National Rifles' Hall, 920 G Street

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY,		(15 minutes),	Mr N. H. DARTON
SURVEYING, MAPPING, AND BRIDGING,		(15 minutes),	Major GILBERT THOMPSON
THE BATTLES:	*As seen from the Northern side*	(20 minutes),	General JOHN GIBBON, U. S. A.
	As seen from the Southern side	(20 minutes),	Major JED. HOTCHKISS, C. S. A.

By authority of the Board, admission to this meeting will be given to friends of members showing or purchasing railway excursion tickets.

The Board desire to express appreciation of the generous assistance already extended by the authorities and citizens of Fredericksburg, and to assure the Society of a cordial welcome in the historic city on the Rappahannock.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
A.D.1888.

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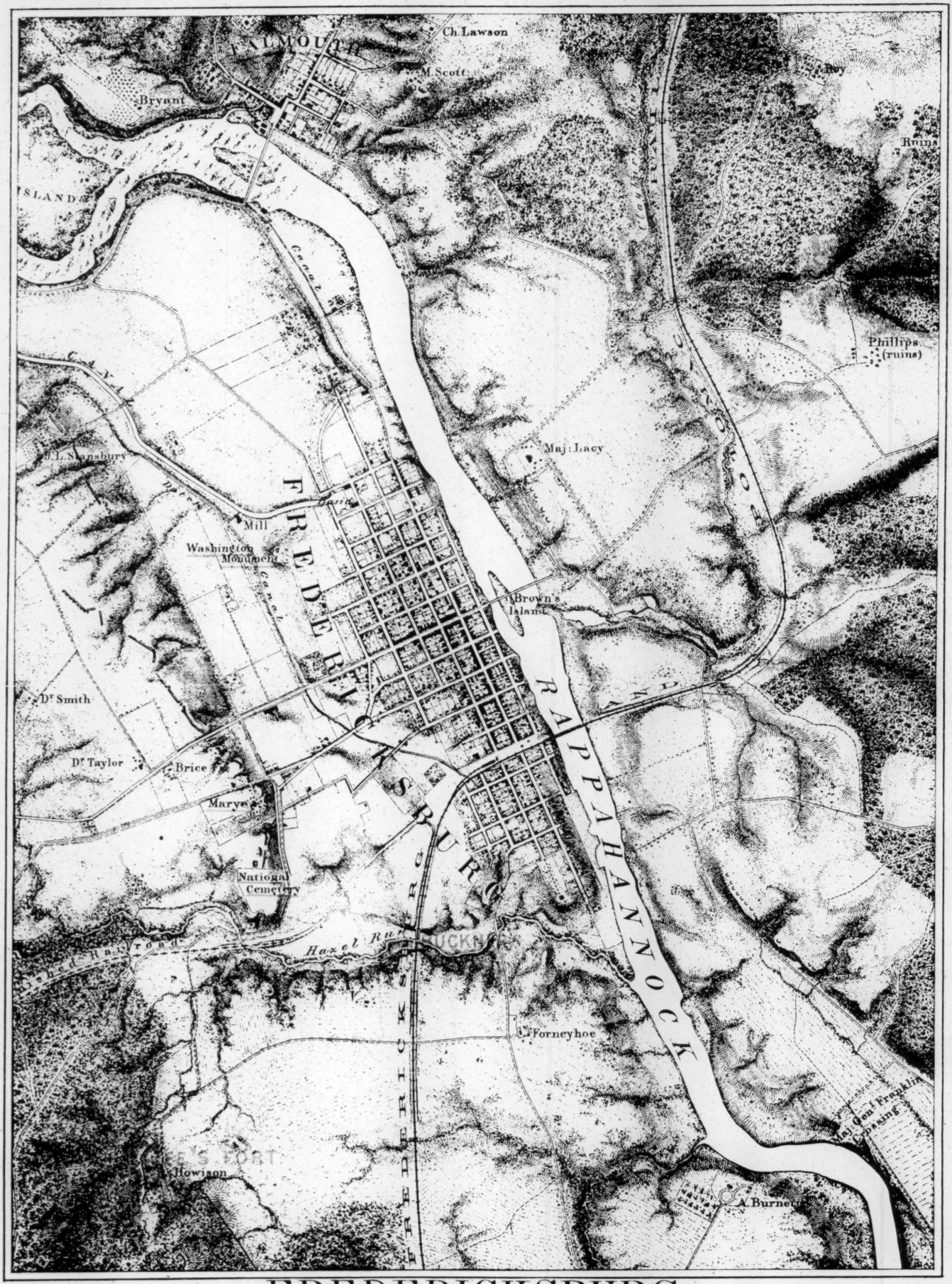
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
1515 H St., Washington, D. C., April 27, 1895.



FREDERICKSBURG

From the map prepared, in 1867, by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

Issued by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. Field-day, May 4, '95.

SCALE, 3 INCHES TO 1 MILE.

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THE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

OREGON: ITS HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND RESOURCES

BY

JOHN H. MITCHELL

UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM OREGON

(*Address delivered before the Society March 29, 1895*)

In whatever aspect considered, the subject of this address is fruitful in suggestion. Whether it be viewed in respect to the derivation and signification of the name Oregon as originally applied to the territory and later to the state; to the manner in which and through what title that territory became a part of the domain of our common country; or in reference to its location, nationally and internationally considered; to its vast extent; its geographic formation; its grand mountains; its magnificent rivers; its fertile valleys; its unrivalled scenic beauties; its capabilities of production; its trade; its commerce; its brave, stalwart, pioneer people; its social and political institutions—in whichever of these aspects the subject is viewed, it is pregnant with historic interest, full of material for discussion and thought.

Let us consider, in the first place, the manner in which what was formerly known as "Oregon territory" became a part of the public domain of the United States, the nature of the title under which we hold, its extent territorially, and then briefly its general characteristics, and particularly some of the more prominent geographic features and resources of the present state of Oregon.

While making no pretensions as an historian, I confess I am still less a geographer; therefore what I shall have to say this evening will perhaps be more historical than geographic in its nature and would perhaps be more appropriate before an historical than a geographic society.

Discovery and Acquisition of Title.

The Oregon of today, though one of the American states, clothed with all the attributes of that sovereignty which attaches to statehood, is widely different in respect to territorial extent, as also in very many other respects, from the Oregon of a century ago. Although the present state of Oregon includes within its boundaries an area of 30,000 square miles more than that included in the whole of the six New England states, it is but a fraction less than one-fifth in size of the original Oregon territory as claimed at first by Spain and subsequently by the United States. Out of that territory, after losing about 200,000 square miles by compromise, has been carved three great states and a large portion of a fourth, namely, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and a part of Montana.

The history of the various titles under which our government asserted claim to the territory of Oregon in the prolonged diplomatic contest with Great Britain for the supremacy is interesting in the highest degree. Our title was of a triple character:

First. Discovery and settlement by Spain, to which title we succeeded.

Second. Discovery in our own right in 1792, followed by scientific exploration and actual settlement.

Third. Cession from France of the Louisiana territory.

For nearly three centuries prior to 1790 Spain had been making claim, on account of alleged discovery, to all of Oregon territory extending from the forty-second degree of northern latitude not only to 54° 40′ but to the sixty-first parallel, and extending from Pacific ocean eastward to the central heights of the Rocky mountains. It was in dimensions a vast empire. Its geographic extent was about 760 miles from north to south and about 650 from east to west, embracing an area of about 494,000 square miles, or seven and one-half times greater than all of the six New England States put together, two and one-half times as large as the whole of Spain and more than 50,000 square miles more than all of Spain, France and Portugal combined.

This claim of Spain dated back 277 years prior to 1790, or 382 years ago, the inceptive right being based by some on the alleged discovery of the Pacific ocean by Balboa in 1513, when he assumed possession of it as a private sea in the name and for the benefit of the Spanish crown; but this claim had slight grounds, indeed no really good grounds of support, though it was greatly strengthened from time to time by the navigation of its coasts and the occupation of its territory by Spanish navigators, Maldonado in 1528 and Farrelo in 1543. In 1592 San Juan de Fuca, a Greek navigator in the Spanish service, entered the strait bearing his name, which now separates the United States from the British possessions. He then for a time supposed he had discovered the great northwestern passage connecting the two oceans. In 1774 the navigator Captain Juan Peres sailed from San Blas January 25, landing first on the northeastern coast of Queen Charlotte island near the fifty-fourth parallel. Humboldt says he was the first of all European navigators to anchor in Nootka sound, in latitude 49° 30′. This he named Port San Lorenzo; four years later it was by Captain Cook called King George's sound. Heceta, a Spanish navigator, visited and landed on the coast in 1775, and Galiano and Valdes in 1792; that they explored the entire Oregon coast, and even farther northward, is an historical fact which cannot be questioned.

Prior to 1790 the claim of Spain to this vast territory was not seriously disputed by any power, although Great Britain had been feebly making a claim scarcely less ancient though based on a more fragile and less defensible title. This claim on the part of Great Britain rested originally (although subsequently that source of title was virtually abandoned) on the acts, familiar to all, of Sir Francis Drake, the English buccaneer and filibuster, who, in 1577, with five armed vessels, had sailed from England, with the connivance of Queen Elizabeth, ostensibly for a voyage to Egypt, but in fact on a filibustering expedition against Spain. Two years later (in 1579), having reached the waters of the Pacific ocean through the strait of Magellan, his fleet encountered storms, reducing it to one schooner of an hundred tons burden and his naval force to sixty men. Just how far Drake sailed northward along the California and Oregon coast is a matter of doubt, some historians asserting he went as far as 42°, others 43°, and some as far as 48°. All agree, however, that, having encountered storms, he returned to the thirty-eighth parallel

and landed in a bay, now supposed to be either the present bay of San Francisco or the bay of Bodega, where, as one historian tells us, he accepted from the savages of the far west, in the name of Queen Elizabeth, "coronation, scepter, and sovereignty."

Great Britain, however, in her prolonged contest with the United States, placed no reliance on the acts of Drake, but based her claim first on the alleged discovery of the Oregon territory by Captain Cook in 1778 and subsequently on alleged discoveries by Captain Mears in 1788 and by Captain Vancouver in 1792, 1793, and 1794. It was claimed, moreover, that Great Britain was the first to acquire what was termed "a beneficial interest in those regions by commercial intercourse."

Resting on these respective titles, that of Great Britain certainly lacking in every respect all those essential elements which constitute a real foundation for a valid claim to sovereignty, these two great rival powers, Spain and Great Britain, came into contention over their respective claims to and in this vast territory in 1790, resulting in what is known in history as "the Nootka convention." The claim of England was then hardly one of sovereignty, but rather, as she asserted, "an indisputable right to the enjoyment of a free and uninterrupted navigation, commerce and fishing, and to the possession of such establishments as they should form, with the consent of the natives of the country, not previously occupied by any European nations."

In the assertion of these alleged rights on the part of Great Britain and of the Spanish contention on the part of the Spanish crown, the conflicting and rival claims to sovereignty were attempted to be upheld, as one historian tells us, "by an occasional visit by vessels, temporarily trading with the natives, some fishing, and a few shanties." The Spanish authorities, however, denying the rights asserted by Great Britain, seized and confiscated her vessels and other property employed in the assertion of her claims to occupation, if not indeed to sovereignty. It was this conflict which resulted in the Nootka convention of 1790.

That Great Britain gained nothing by the terms of that treaty in respect to her alleged rights, either as to sovereignty, tenancy, or commerce in any of the countries bordering on the Pacific ocean, is conceded by all historians. That her claims, both as to discovery and prior occupation, submitted to that convention were absolutely baseless as against those of Spain or any other power must be conceded. Even should we concede all that has

ever been claimed by the most ardent English historian in respect to the achievements of Sir Francis Drake and others, it amounts to nothing as against the Spanish claim; and so in reference to the alleged discovery by the British captains, Cook, Mears, and Vancouver, for the evidence is conclusive that this same coast had been navigated and the land discovered more than 260 years before by the Spanish navigator Maldonado (1528). If, then, Great Britain gained nothing in her claim, either as to sovereignty or occupancy, by the Nootka treaty of 1790, as she did not, she certainly had no right to complain.

When this treaty was submitted to the British Parliament it was denounced by the opposition as a cowardly surrender. "Nothing has been gained," said Mr Charles Fox, "but, on the contrary, much has been surrendered;" and, speaking further, Mr Fox said: "Our right before the convention (whether admitted or denied by Spain was of no consequence) was to settle any part of South or Northwest America not fortified against us by previous occupancy, and we are now restricted to settle in certain places only and under certain conditions. Our rights of fishing extended to the whole ocean, and now it is limited and not to be exercised within certain distances of Spanish settlements. Our right of making settlements was not as now a right to build huts, but to plant colonies, if we thought proper. In renouncing all right to make settlements in South America we have given to Spain what she considered as inestimable and have in return been contented with dross." But whatever rights Great Britain had by virtue of the Nootka treaty of 1790 were lost, totally destroyed, when in 1796 Spain declared war against Great Britain, as it is a principle of public law that a declaration of war destroys all treaties between the belligerents.

The claim of Spain to the whole of Oregon territory south of the sixty-first parallel was acknowledged by the Russian government, the only power holding claims which conflicted with Spain. In 1790 complaints had been made to the Russian court against Russian subjects for invading the Spanish territory south of 61° of northern latitude. To this complaint the Emperor of all the Russias, through the proper channel, replied in these words:

"The Emperor assures the King of Spain he is extremely sorry that the repeated orders issued to prevent the subjects of Russia from violating in the smallest degree the territory belonging to another power should have been disobeyed."

This was a clear and unequivocal recognition of the sovereignty of Spain to all territory south of the sixty-first parallel.

The contention on the part of the government of Great Britain that whatever rights the United States acquired in the Oregon territory in virtue of the treaty with Spain, known as "the Florida treaty," in 1819, subject to certain rights of Great Britain as to alleged joint occupancy with Spanish subjects existing in virtue of the "Nootka treaty" of 1790, was completely annihilated, first, by Secretary Calhoun in 1843, and subsequently, by Secretary Buchanan in 1845. They demonstrated two propositions: First, that not only had Great Britain acquired no rights of sovereignty in virtue of the treaty of 1790 with Spain, but by that treaty the sovereignty of Spain was directly conceded; for the only rights fully recognized to Great Britain in the treaty were that her subjects should not be disturbed in landing on the coasts in places already occupied for the purpose of carrying on trade with the natives. Second, that the treaty of 1790 was abrogated by the declaration of war of Spain against Great Britain in 1796; that by that war it fell to the ground and was never resurrected, and therefore every right which Great Britain had in virtue of its provisions vanished. In their discussion the principle of public law that war terminates all subsisting treaties between the belligerent powers was discussed with great ability. It was clearly shown that the only exception to this general rule is in case of a treaty *recognizing* certain sovereign rights as belonging to a nation which had *previously existed*, independently of any treaty engagement; that is, those rights which the treaty did not *create*, but merely *recognized*, cannot be destroyed by war between the governments constituting parties to the treaties. The treaty of peace, for instance, between this country and Great Britain in 1783, wherein Great Britain acknowledged that the United States was "free, sovereign and independent," is of this exceptional character—a right *recognized*, but not *granted* by treaty, and hence a right which cannot be destroyed by war.

The claim of Spain to the territory of Oregon—that is, the territory lying on the Pacific ocean north of the forty-second parallel and extending to 54° 40′—did not rest alone on discovery and settlement, but also as being embraced within and a part of the ancient Louisiana ceded by France to Spain in 1762 and by a secret arrangement re-ceded to France in 1800, then ceded by France to the United States in 1803 (known as "the Louisiana

purchase"). Whatever claim, therefore, Spain had to the Oregon territory in 1800, prior to her cession to France, in virtue either of discovery and settlement, on the one hand, or by cession from France as part of the ancient Louisiana, on the other, vested in the United States by the Louisiana purchase. That Spain, therefore, was the real and sole sovereign owner of the whole of Oregon territory as against Great Britain there can be no doubt, and the United States succeeded to all the rights which Spain ever had—first, by the cession from France in 1803 and, second, by virtue of the Florida treaty and cession from Spain in 1819.

Americans the first actual Discoverers of Oregon.

Whatever may be said as to discovery, tenancy, occupation, exploration and settlement of that vast region of the mighty west lying north of the forty-second parallel, or whatever may be the character of those claims on the part of any country, the glory of the actual discovery, of the real scientific exploration and actual settlement, belongs to America, to the United States; and on that high, unimpeachable title, irrespective of all others, has our country ever stood and can forever stand in its claim to the territory of Oregon.

The first real assertion of sovereignty in all that vast region occurred when, on May 11, 1792, Captain Gray, of Boston, an American citizen and navigator, a naval officer during the revolutionary war, master of the merchant ship *Columbia*, discovered and entered the great river of the west. He ascended its waters a distance of twenty-five miles from its mouth, remaining there nine days, and named it "Columbia" in honor of his ship, planted the American flag on its shores and took possession of the country in the name of the United States. Indefatigable were the efforts of Great Britain to wrest this honor from the United States, and in support of this effort all manner of claims were from time to time set up.

Suspicion had been entertained for many years, perhaps a century prior to 1792, in the minds of Spanish and English navigators that a large river emptied somewhere into the waters of the Pacific, and the English navigators Mears and Vancouver had been instructed by their respective governments to make every effort to discover it. They spent months in the years 1791 and 1792 in this effort, but without result. "Mears," says one historian, "failed to find the mouth of the supposed river when

he was led to explore for it in the straits of Fuca, and made permanent record of his failure in the two titles he left there—cape Disappointment and Deception bay." The same historian, in speaking of Vancouver, says: "Vancouver scrutinized that coast for about 250 miles, and so minutely that the surf has been constantly seen from the mast-head to break on its shores. Thus he failed to discover the mouth of the Columbia, mistaking evidently the breakers on its fearful bars for coast surf."

This entry was made in his journal April 29, 1792, only twelve days prior to the date when Captain Gray made the great discovery; and yet, because the English navigator Vancouver subsequently sailed farther up the river than did Captain Gray, the latter directing him how to find the entrance, Great Britain insists that he and not Captain Gray was the discoverer of the Columbia, and that all the rights which attach to such discovery belong to England and not to the United States.

In discussing this phase of the Oregon question Professor Twiss, of Oxford University, in an elaborate paper, said: "Captain Gray's claim is limited to the mouth of the river."

The historian Barrows, in commenting on this character of reasoning, very pertinently says: "Thus the discovery of a river is made a progressive work by English claimants, as if one should discover the Mississippi at New Orleans, another at Memphis, another at Cairo, another at the mouth of the Missouri, and so on to the falls of Saint Anthony; as if the discovery of a lost cable were progressive as the separate links of the chain are hauled on board." "If," says the historian, "this had not been said by plenipotentiaries we should call it puerile."

Mears not only did not discover Columbia river, but, on the contrary, he expressly declared there was no such river emptying into the Pacific ocean. "We can now safely assert," said he in his report, "that there is no such river as that of Saint Roque, as laid down on the Spanish charts." And, as if to emphasize the failure of his expectations, he named the promontory lying north of the inlet where he had expected to discover it "cape Disappointment," and the inlet itself "Deception bay," names by which they have been known ever since.

The Exploration of Lewis and Clarke.

Gray's discovery and the purchase of Louisiana territory were quickly followed by scientific exploration on the part of the

government of the United States, as also by settlement on the part of its citizens.

The expedition of Lewis and Clarke, organized before and sent out immediately after the consummation of the Louisiana purchase, was one of the most daring, difficult, dangerous, and, at the same time, successful of the expeditions of which history, either of this or of any other country, gives record.

There seems to be some difference in statements of historians as to the number composing that expedition. According to Barrows, it consisted of twenty-eight persons in all—Lewis and Clarke, nine young Kentuckians, fourteen United States soldiers, two Canadian voyageurs, and one negro, the body servant of Captain Clarke. According, however, to the probably accurate notes of Dr Coues to his new edition of the history of that expedition, it consisted of forty-five men from Missouri to the Mandan country, and of thirty-two, including Lewis and Clarke, thereafter across the continent, the others returning from that point, as was the original program.

Captains Lewis and Clarke were commissioned by President Jefferson "to explore the river Missouri and its principal branches to their sources, and then to seek to trace to its termination in the Pacific some river, whether the Columbia, the Oregon, the Colorado or any other, which might offer the most direct, practicable water communication across the continent for the purposes of commerce."

The time occupied by these courageous men in consummating the important and hazardous duty assigned them by their government was two years, four months and nine days, and during this time they traveled more than nine thousand miles through an unbroken and trackless wilderness. The start was made May 14, 1804, from their camp on the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Missouri, and returning they reached St. Louis September 23, 1806. They discovered the headwaters of the Missouri and of the Columbia, and followed the waters of the latter until they landed at cape Disappointment, at the mouth of the Columbia, in Oregon, November 15, 1805. They remained there in camp until March 23, 1806, when they commenced the ascent of the Columbia in their canoes on their return trip.

The hardships experienced by these brave men and by the courageous pioneers, men and women who in the next half cen-

tury followed in their footsteps and braved the innumerable dangers and hardships of the far west, have never been, nor can they be, fully depicted by either pen or tongue. To them are the people of America greatly indebted, for they have hewn out with willing hands, borne on stalwart shoulders, and set with stability in its everlasting resting place, the foundation stone of one of the grandest pillars upon which in part rests today the superb superstructure of American development and American civilization. How strangely pathetic is the history and how peculiar are the vicissitudes surrounding the lives of some men! Captain Meriwether Lewis, after passing through all the untold hardships and perils of that memorable expedition, returned to serve a brief time as governor of the northwestern territory, and then to find a lonely grave in the forests of Tennessee, either as a *felo de se* or as the victim of the hand of an assassin; just which, history has never definitely determined.

Not only by succession to every right which both France and Spain had to this territory, either in virtue of occupation or otherwise; not only by the right of sovereignty which attaches to the discoverer of a new country, nor yet by those rights which follow in the wake of scientific exploration, did the government of the United States rest its claim to the territory of Oregon; but added to all these is that other accumulated right, which is the result not merely of occupancy, but of *actual settlement*. The law of nations recognizes a wide distinction between those rights which attach to mere *occupancy* and those which attach to *actual settlement*. The natives of this territory in their wild, uncivilized state are mere occupants, mere tenants; they are not settlers. The Hudson bay trappers and traders, who invaded Oregon territory in pursuit of peltries and furs, were mere occupants, similar in all respects in the light of the law in regard to territorial rights which result from such occupancy as those which attach to the Indians. They were not settlers within the legal signification of that term, nor did they attract to themselves those territorial or sovereign rights which the law accords to settlers. The interests of civilization, says the law of that civilization, cannot permit a great empire of wild country to remain as such for the use of wild men for a game life; no less could the law of that civilization permit this great foreign monopoly, the Hudson Bay company, to occupy such country for the sole purpose of accumulating and speculating on the spoils of the hunter, and

without any effort whatever to either develop or increase the natural productions of the country or locate or promote a single settlement. It was therefore by mere *occupancy*, and not by *settlement*, that England sought originally to strengthen her claim to and acquire rights in the Oregon territory. With the United States and the people of the United States it was entirely different. With the latter occupancy was coupled with that other and higher attribute of development and civilization, namely, scientific exploration and actual settlement.

Astor's project contemplated not merely occupancy of this distant territory for purposes similar to the Hudson Bay company; his purposes were of much higher order. They embraced settlement, the establishment of civil society, the physical development of the country, the leveling of the forest, the construction of houses, the cultivation of the land, the building of homes, the erection of school-houses and churches, the making of towns and cities, the establishing of marts, the creation of commercial arteries, and, in a word, the establishment of such civil institutions as would tend to attach the new territory, with bonds indissoluble, to the states of the American union, and thus weaken and finally and forever sever every adverse claim, and at the same time expand and develop the country and the commercial and political prestige and power of the nation. Irving in his "Astoria" summarizes the plans and expectations of Astor in these words: "He considered his projected establishment at the mouth of the Columbia as the emporium to an immense commerce; as a colony that would form the germ of a wide civilization; that would in fact carry the American population across the Rocky mountains and spread it along the shores of the Pacific as it already animated the shores of the Atlantic."

It was prompted by such impulses and with an aim to such results that the town of Astoria was established by Astor in 1811. The war of 1812 coming on, the English captured Astoria, hauled down the American flag, hoisted the English ensign and changed the name of the fort from Astoria to Fort George; but at the close of the war in 1818 it was restored to the United States by a treaty which stipulated the restoration of "all territory, places and possessions whatsoever taken by either party from the other during the war." In this restoration the English denominated it "the settlement;" and however many may have been the occupants of this country or those employed by the Hudson Bay

company prior to that, this was unquestionably the first permanent settlement made by white men in the valley of the Columbia or in the territory of Oregon, and this was by American citizens. The claim, therefore, to prior settlement of Oregon territory, now comprising the whole of the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and a part of Montana, can rightfully attach only to the United States.

It is doubtless true that the two Winship brothers, of Boston, are the men who really made the first *attempt* at settlement on Columbia river after Gray's discovery. They sailed from Boston July 7, 1809, in two ships, the *O'Kain*, of which Jonathan was captain, and the *Albatross*, of which Nathan was master. The *O'Kain* went direct to California, while the *Albatross* went to Sandwich islands and thence to Columbia river, arriving there with fifty men on board early in the spring of 1810. The vessel proceeded up the river a distance of forty miles, opposite to the place now known as Oakpoint, where they disembarked, cleared a small tract of land, erected a building and planted vegetables, all of which, however, were demolished and swept away by the June floods of the same year, when Captain Nathan Winship reëmbarked with his men, joined his brother in California and, learning of Astor's expedition, never returned.

That Great Britain, operating through divers influential channels, notably the Hudson Bay company, reënforced as it was in 1821 by consolidation with the Canadian Northwest company of Montreal, exerted a most formidable power against the settlement of Oregon territory by Americans, and the waves of whose influence reached Washington and for a time threatened the loss of the whole territory, is an historic fact well established. That Daniel Webster, as Secretary of State, was by these influences at one time convinced that the whole territory was an unbroken waste of sandy deserts, impassable mountains, and impenetrable jungles there can be no room for doubt. These powerful influences had been operating in divers ways prior to 1842 for more than a third of a century. Their effect on the individual and public mind in the east, and on the official mind as well in Washington, was marked in the highest degree.

That Webster, as Secretary of State, had seriously contemplated including the whole of this territory in the Ashburton treaty, and subsequently in a separate treaty, in exchange to Great Britain for certain cod fisheries in Newfoundland is be-

yond question. The insidious and powerfully effective influences and the remarkably successful aggressions of the Hudson Bay company are best illustrated by the triumphs it achieved in the face of what seemed insurmountable obstacles. Although its original charter dates back to Charles II of England, in 1670, by which it was granted certain important rights, forty years prior to that a similar charter had been granted to the Canadian Northwest Fur company by Louis XIII of France. Prior to 1821 this company was in numbers, capital, influence and power vastly superior to and a most formidable rival of the Hudson Bay company; yet the latter, notwithstanding all this, through its superior management and great diplomacy, compelled the former in 1821 to yield to and accept its own terms as to union and consolidation, and from that day the Hudson Bay company, thus reënforced in capital, numbers and influence, and in the number and extent of its outposts, directed all its vast energies and immense powers to wrest from the United States and obtain eventually for Great Britain the whole of Oregon territory.

The Error of our Government in treating for Joint Occupancy.

But notwithstanding these superior rights on the part of the United States, in virtue not only of occupancy but also of scientific exploration and settlement, entitling this country to exclusive sovereign rights in the whole of Oregon territory, the fact that the Hudson Bay company had extended its operations into that region and was engaged in trade there with the Indians induced our government to make the fatal mistake of entering into a treaty with Great Britain in 1818 providing for joint occupancy for a period of ten years. This stipulation was extended indefinitely by another treaty with Great Britain in 1827, promulgated May 15, 1828.

These treaties, however, were not intended, nor did they or either of them in any manner attempt, to determine the respective sovereign claims of the United States and Great Britain, or in fact those of any other government, to this territory; they were intended only, as expressly stated in the treaty, "to prevent disputes and differences among the occupants of that territory."

That the government of the United States made a fearful mistake in ever consenting by treaty stipulation that Great Britain

should, through its subjects, occupy Oregon territory jointly with our citizens for a period of twenty-eight years, instead of standing in 1817 on our rights as sovereign and insisting that they should be respected, is now generally conceded. The value of the furs of which that country was stripped by the Hudson Bay company in that time was immense, amounting to many millions of dollars. In the four years 1834 to 1837 the Hudson Bay company alone killed in that region (Oregon territory) over 3,500,000 fur-bearing animals, including beaver, marten, otter, fox, muskrat, bear, ermine, fitchew, lynx, mink, wolf, badger and raccoon. The American fur-traders could not compete with the Hudson Bay company, as all the supplies of the latter came in free of duty. But the fact that by the joint occupancy this great monopoly was enabled to strip the country of its wealth was as nothing compared with the powerfully hostile influence it constantly exerted against the settlement of the country by Americans and the foothold it afforded Great Britain, enabling that power to successfully postpone for nearly a century the final settlement of the question as to our rights, and which in the end compelled us to compromise, and deprived us of that vast extent of territory lying between the forty-ninth parallel and 54° 40′, the Rocky mountains and the Pacific ocean. Thomas H. Benton and many other leading men denounced this policy of joint occupation. Said Senator Benton in 1845, referring to the treaty of joint occupation: "I have been clear against joint occupation for twenty-eight years as a treaty of unmixed mischief to the United States." Historians agree that this company stripped Oregon territory of furs of the value of over one million dollars annually, amounting to perhaps thirty millions of dollars in the twenty-eight years of joint occupancy.

The political historian, J. Henry Brown, himself an Oregon pioneer of 1846, in referring to this matter in his "Political History of Oregon," says:

> "Our government could have well afforded to have given a bonus of $10,000,000 and settled the question in 1818. Then, to cap the climax, our government was again swindled in the treaty of 1846 by agreeing to pay an unknown bill to that greatest of frauds and swindles, the Puget Sound Agricultural company, to the tune of $450,000, on account of possessory rights and claims of the Hudson Bay company, and on account of possessory rights of the Puget Sound Agricultural company, the sum of $200,000, a total of $650,000—a nice commentary on American sagacity, statesmanship and diplomacy!"

It was the entirely too ready disposition on the part of our government at the outset, in 1824, 1826 and 1829, to compromise our rights in the Oregon territory which resulted eventually in a loss to this country of territory the value of which cannot be estimated. Both Presidents Tyler and Polk were handicapped by the offer of settlement made to Great Britain under former administrations, in which the government had consented from time to time to a compromise on the forty-ninth parallel.

This, then, was the status of the territory of Oregon from the date of our treaty with Great Britain in 1818 until our treaty of 1846, a period of twenty-eight years. It was one of joint occupancy in virtue of treaty stipulation between the two countries, and it was during these twenty-eight years that the great battle as to the ultimate ownership of Oregon was fought and won. It was not wholly, though in part, a warfare of men on the field of carnage; it was a mighty, a prolonged—in one sense a physical and in another sense a diplomatic—contest between the vanguards of two civilizations and of two mighty nations, each contending with the other for the supremacy, and each also with the uncivilized, blood-thirsty savages whose country was being invaded, though for their civilization and ultimate good. Such was the political status, emphasized by treaty stipulation, as to induce the belief on the part of Great Britain that the ultimate right to the whole territory would be determined, not so much by the question as to *priority* of discovery, exploration and settlement, but rather by the *character* and *extent* of settlement in the years that should intervene before the final decision should be made by arbitration or otherwise.

During this period two purposes seemed to inspire the government of Great Britain as a means of ultimately securing to herself the absolute ownership of the whole of the vast Oregon territory. One was to impress on our public men and the government at Washington in every possible manner the alleged worthlessness of the territory; the other was to push forward unremittingly through the instrumentality of the great governmental organ, the Hudson Bay company, actual settlements in the territory. That they succeeded in a very large degree in impressing many of the prominent officials of our government that the whole territory was a worthless waste, not worth having, much less worth contending for, is made clearly apparent

from the congressional debates during the twenty-eight years of joint occupancy. Did time permit, it might be interesting, in view of what the state of Oregon is today physically, commercially, socially, and politically, to recite some of the statements made in these debates. I will quote a few extracts:

Senator McDuffie, of South Carolina, in discussing in the United States Senate in 1843 the bill of Senator Linn, of Missouri, extending the laws of the United States over the territory of Oregon and proposing grants of the public lands to American citizens as an inducement to settlers, which bill passed the Senate February 3, 1843, said:

"The whole region beyond the Rocky mountains and a vast tract between that chain and the Mississippi is a desert, without value for agricultural purposes, and which no American citizen should be compelled to inhabit unless as a punishment for crime.

"Why, sir, of what use will this territory be for agricultural purposes? I would not for that purpose give a pinch of snuff for the whole territory. I wish to God we did not own it. I wish it was an impassable barrier to secure us from the intrusion of others. This is the character of the country. Who are we going to send there? Do you think your honest farmers in Pennsylvania, New York, or even in Ohio and Missouri, will abandon their farms to go upon any such enterprise as this? God forbid, if any man is to go to that country under the temptation of this bill?"

Mr McDuffie concluded by saying: "If I had a son who was a fit subject for Botany bay, I would urge him to go there."

The historians of the time were laboring under this fearful delusion as to the character and value of Oregon. Greenhow, writing in 1844 in his "History of Oregon and California," after stating his knowledge and views as to the region included in Oregon territory, says:

"Thus, on reviewing the agricultural, commercial and other economical advantages of Oregon, there appears to be no reason, founded on such considerations, which should render either of the powers claiming the possession of that country anxious to occupy it immediately or unwilling to concede its own pretensions to the other for a very moderate compensation."

Even Senator Benton, of Missouri, who subsequently became one of the great defenders of our rights in Oregon (though unfortunately never to the full extent of our rightful claim to territory in the north, but only to the forty-ninth parallel), as late as 1825 regarded Oregon as not worth holding. In that year he, in his place in the Senate, said:

"The ridge of the Rocky mountains may be named as a convenient, natural and everlasting boundary. Along this ridge the western limits of the Republic should be drawn and the statue of the fabled god Terminus should be erected on its highest peak, never to be thrown down."

Thanks to Dr Whitman and other pioneer heroes whose names and memories are rightfully forever embalmed in the affections of every true American, the western limits of the Republic were not drawn on the ridge of the Rocky mountains. The fabled god "Terminus" was never stationed there. Providence had willed it otherwise, and a brave and courageous people executed that will. Though those mountains are high and rocky and seemingly insurmountable, they were neither high enough nor rocky enough to impress discouragement on the minds or hearts of such dauntless men and women as Whitman and his wife and their followers, or to stem the irresistible tide of the pioneer emigration of these resolute and determined men and women who, by their incomparable courage and untold sufferings, settled the Oregon question forever.

The great historic fact is that prior to Whitman's visit to Washington (to which I shall presently allude) the sentiment among public men was almost universal that Oregon was a worthless waste, not worth contending for. Some in fact never did learn or comprehend its great value. As late as 1846 Senator Winthrop, of Massachusetts, quoted what Benton had said in 1825, and then remarked: "This country will not be straitened for elbow-room in the west for a thousand years, and neither the west nor the country at large has any real interest in retaining Oregon."

The Influence of the Hudson Bay Company.

The Hudson Bay company, through whose active influence this false sentiment was mainly created, was in every essential sense the direct, active and all powerful agent of the British government. It held its charter and its licenses from that government; its officers were superintended by a governor and deputy governor and a committee of directors resident in London, while a resident governor superintended and directed its vast operations in America.

The officers and members of the Hudson Bay company were, as a rule, under the domination of the home government. One grand exception, however, stands out in history: Dr John Mc-

Laughlin was the true friend of the American pioneer. Brave, generous, noble, his house, his larder, his horses, his cattle were all at the service of the poor travel-worn, weary and discouraged emigrant. But for this disposition and these noble qualities he was ostracised by the company and the British government, driven into exile at Oregon City, there to end his days, yet respected, venerated, honored by the pioneers of Oregon and all who knew him and his history.

Doctor Marcus Whitman.

It was at this critical period in our history that the great martyr to the cause of the vindication of American rights and the advancement of national development and Christian civilization came to the front, and in the grandeur of American manhood in its sublimest sense rose equal to the great emergency, and by his memorable trip across the continent, from Oregon to Washington, in the dead of winter in 1842–'43, prevented the contemplated barter of that great empire for a cod fishery bank on the shores of Newfoundland. Dr Marcus Whitman, whose name must be forever associated with the early history of Oregon, had in 1835, under the auspices of the American board of foreign missions in Boston, accompanied by his faithful wife, gone to what was then a distant wilderness, and in 1836 established there a mission. Though 48 years have passed since he and his wife and nine of their household, on November 27, 1847, fell victims to savage outlawry on the plains of Walla Walla, and gave up their lives* as a part of the cost of preserving as our rightful heritage that great territory, his name still lives and will continue to live in the history of his country, imperishable as the stars, honored, respected, admired.

Dr Whitman, being deeply impressed that the government at Washington, through false information received from British sources—among others, from the British minister at Washington and the reports of the governor of the Hudson Bay company—to the effect that the whole of Oregon territory was comparatively worthless, was about to barter the whole thing away for a cod fishery interest on the coast of Newfoundland, determined to proceed to Washington at once at all hazards, for the purpose

* Five of the Indians concerned in the Whitman massacre were tried, convicted, sentenced and hung at Oregon City in May, 1850.

of presenting the true state of the case to the President, the Secretary of State, and other members of the government. That he was justified in his fears is more than fully demonstrated by the historical occurrences of the times.

It is conceded by all historians who have written on the subject that Dr Whitman's mission to Washington, accompanied as he was across the continent by that other brave pioneer, General A. L. Lovejoy, in the winter of 1842–'43, saved Oregon to the union, and all that is implied in, and which attaches to, that salvation. His mission was of a quadruple nature. It was in the interest, *first*, of the preservation of the sovereign rights of the United States to a vast and immensely valuable territory about to be bartered away through misinformation on the part of the government; *second*, of the preservation of the lives and property of American citizens, men, women and children, pioneer emigrants, then settled in Oregon territory, and the protection of Christian missions in the Indian territory of the Far West; *third*, of the material welfare of the United States; and *fourth*, of the great cause of American civilization.

Although the board of missions, under whose auspices Dr Whitman had gone to Oregon seven years before, for the reason, doubtless, that they did not understand the real situation, did not take kindly to his return without leave on his noble and perilous mission, and he was, according to the historian Gray, "Instead of being received and treated as his labors justly entitled him to be, met by the cold calculating rebuke for unreasonable expenses, and for dangers incurred without orders or instructions or permission, from the mission to come to the states." Although this may be, and doubtless was, true, as stated in this paragraph by Gray, the time has at last come when all shadows have been dispelled, all doubts removed, and when in the clear light of accurate, impartial history the motives, the courage, the patriotism, the Christian fidelity of Dr Whitman are seen and recognized in their true character, not only by the representatives of the Congregational church, its early and present missions, not only by the people of the Pacific northwest, nor yet alone by the whole American people, but likewise by those of the whole civilized world.

The interest attaching to this memorable trip of Dr Whitman across the continent in the winter of 1842–'43 was widespread. Its fame extended throughout the nation, and the subject of Oregon and the rights of the United States in respect to the same

were matters of discussion in all political circles. Public sentiment was wrought up to the highest pitch, so much so that the democratic national convention which met at Baltimore in 1844 had, as one of its planks, "Fifty-four forty or fight," and on this platform the Polk administration came into power. The embarrassments with which it was surrounded, however, growing out of the Oregon question and this particular plank in the platform, were great.

The President found that preceding negotiations during the administrations of his predecessors, Monroe, Adams, and Tyler, had not proceeded on the part of the United States on the theory of our right to fifty-four forty; that the negotiations proceeded rather on the idea that they should treat the respective claims of the two countries in the Oregon territory with a view to establishing a permanent boundary between them west of the Rocky mountains to the Pacific ocean, and in this compromising spirit these administrations had proposed to fix the boundary on the forty-ninth parallel. To add to the embarrassment, many leading democratic senators, including Benton, of Missouri, scouted at the idea that our rights extended to fifty-four forty, and insisted that we had no rights extending farther northward than the forty-ninth parallel. To add still further to the embarrassment of the situation, Great Britain, through her minister, on June 6, 1846, before the administration of Mr Polk was clearly launched, submitted a proposition, the same that was finally agreed on, of the forty-ninth parallel, and coupled with it the suggestion that it must be accepted at once, and without delay, if at all. In this great political dilemma President Polk resorted to a course which, though adopted a few times in the earlier years of our government, had not been resorted to for nearly half a century—that is, of seeking the advice of the Senate of the United States in advance of action on the part of the executive.

Consequently on June 10, 1846, the President transmitted to the Senate the proposal in the form of the convention presented to the Secretary of State on the sixth of that month by the British envoy, for its advice. Mr Polk's message transmitting this convention concluded as follows:

"Should the Senate by the constitutional majority required for the ratification of treaties advise the acceptance of this proposition or advise it with such modifications as they may upon full deliberation deem proper,

I shall conform my action to their advice. Should the Senate, however, decline by such constitutional majority to give such advice or to express an opinion upon the subject, I will consider it my duty to reject the offer."

In other words, President Polk, encompassed on the one hand by the plank in the platform on which he was elected, of "Fifty-four forty or fight," and on the other hand by the action of preceding administrations in conflict with that proposition, his party leaders divided on the question, and the issue brought directly to the front by Great Britain, concluded to and did throw the whole responsibility on the Senate of the United States. Two days subsequently, June 12, 1846, the Senate adopted a resolution advising the President to accept the proposal of the British government, and as a result the convention was finally agreed to June 15, 1846.

So, although this memorable controversy had remained unsettled for nearly half a century, it is a remarkable historical fact that but nine days elapsed between the submission of the final proposition to compromise by Great Britain and the signing of the treaty.

Notwithstanding the fact that one hundred and three years have elapsed since the discovery of Columbia river by Captain Gray, ninety-two years since the cession of Louisiana, and seventy-six years since our cession from Spain, the settlement of our title to a certain portion of the territory of Oregon was held in abeyance until October 21, 1872, less than twenty-three years ago. That was the island of San Juan. The treaty of June 15, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, which was intended to settle *all* questions relating to our northern boundary, inadvertently left the question as to the title to this island an open one. The treaty in defining the northern boundary of the United States from a point in the Rocky mountains on the forty-ninth parallel, from which point eastward the boundary line had been fixed by the second article of the treaty of Washington, in 1842, reads as follows:

"Shall be continued westward along said forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's island, and then southerly through the middle of said channel and of Fuca's straits to the Pacific ocean."

This island is located in the "channel" mentioned in this treaty, and the question at once arose, and for a period of twenty-

five years was a source of aggravating controversy between this country and Great Britain, at one time very nearly involving the two nations in war, as to which was the "channel" referred to in the treaty. Great Britain, true to a national tendency, insisted while the United States insisted that Haro channel, on the northern side of the island, was the main channel within the meaning of the treaty.

This minor boundary controversy was finally adjusted by a provision in our treaty with Great Britain of May 6, 1871, submitting the question to the arbitration of the German Emperor, who, on October 21, 1872, made his award sustaining the contention of the United States; and thus, after a period of nearly eighty years, dating from the discovery of the Columbia by Captain Gray, the whole question as to the ownership of the Oregon territory was finally determined, not, however, without a sacrifice of important rights as to our northern boundary in the interest of compromise.

That Dr Whitman was misunderstood at the time by many, and by none more than by the board of American missions, and therefore suffered unjust criticism from that board, there can be no question. Barrows, in his "History of Oregon," in referring to this fact, says: "He, as Coleridge says of Milton, strode so far before his contemporaries as to dwarf himself by the distance." But the day of atonement has come, and although in this as in many other cases justice has been delayed, yet as a poet has said, "Ever the right comes uppermost, and ever justice is done." No longer ago than Sunday, the tenth of the present month (March, 1895), in the city of Chicago, the day was widely observed in the Congregational churches of that city in honor of Marcus Whitman, and incidentally in aid of Whitman college at Walla Walla. The Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, in its issue of March 11, says: "Dr Whitman is the hero of the Congregational church of this century. In fact, in the largeness of the results he accomplished, no man of the century leads him."

At the city of Walla Walla, in the state of Washington, within six miles of Waiilatpu, the spot where he and his missionary wife and nine other companions were, on November 27, 1847, mercilessly slaughtered by the very savages whose best interests had been subserved by them and whose heads had been blessed by their benedictions, there is to be erected a college bearing his name, with an endowment of $200,000, $50,000 of which has been pledged by Dr D. K. Pearson on condition that the balance is

raised. That college, when erected, as it doubtless will be, will be a fitting and lasting monument to his name.

Whitman succeeded in disabusing the minds of Daniel Webster, President Tyler, Thomas H. Benton, and other public men as to the character and value of Oregon territory. They had come to believe, through the continuous misrepresentations to which I have referred, not only that Oregon territory was of little value but that it was a physical impossibility to go from Fort Hall to Oregon with wagons. Whitman had taken his wife in a wagon over these mountains eight years before (in 1835) and he assured them there was no insurmountable difficulty; and he proved his assertion by leading back to Oregon an emigration the same year, the summer of 1843, with 200 wagons and over 1,000 men, women and children, not losing, as I remember the history, a single wagon or a single life in the journey west of Fort Hall.

Dr Whitman was a born leader of men. He had the courage to face every danger, however perilous. in defense of the right. His efforts while in Washington, coupled with the magnificent successes of his expedition the same year, turned the scale in which that vast territory was being weighed and balanced between the two countries in favor of the United States.

Had Dr Whitman been possessed of the egotistic assurance of Horace of old, and could he have gazed down the long avenues of coming ages, he might, with him, have truly said:

I have achieved a tower of fame
  More durable than gold,
And loftier than the royal frame
  Of pyramids of old;
Which none inclemencies of clime,
  Nor fiercest winds that blow,
Nor endless change, nor lapse of time,
  Shall ever overthrow.
I cannot perish utterly;
  The broader part of me must live, and live and never die,
But baffle Death's decree!
  For I shall always grow, and spread
My new-blown honors still,
  Long as the priest and vestal tread
The Capitolian hill.
  I shall be sung when thy rough waves,
My native river, foam,
  And when old Daunus scantly laves

And rules his rustic home—
As chief and first I shall be sung,
Though lowly, great in might,
To tune my country's heart and tongue,
And tune them both aright.

The Contention of Great Britain.

In our contention with Great Britain respecting Oregon territory it was very earnestly and with some degree of facetiousness asserted by the British minister, Packenham, that the different titles under which we claimed were conflicting and therefore destroyed each other, namely, discovery by Spain, cession from France, and discovery and settlement by American citizens; but Mr Calhoun, as Secretary of State, in his letter to Mr Packenham, disposed of that assertion with this remark:

"It has been objected that we claim under various and conflicting titles which mutually destroy each other. Such might indeed be the fact while they were held by different parties, but since we have rightfully acquired both those of Spain and France and concentrated the whole in our own hands, they mutually blend with each other and form one strong and connecting chain of title against the opposing claims of all others, including Great Britain."

Mr Buchanan, in referring to this phase of the case, said:

"This is a most ingenious method of making two distinct and independent titles held by the same nation worse than one—of arraying them against each other and thus destroying the validity of both. From the moment Spain transferred all her rights to the United States all possible conflict between the two titles ended, both being united in the same party. Two titles which might have conflicted, therefore, were thus blended together. The title now vested in the United States is just as strong as though every act of discovery, exploration and settlement on the part of both powers had been performed by Spain alone before she had transferred all her rights to the United States. The two powers are one in this respect; the two titles are one, and they serve to confirm and strengthen each other."

Great Britain, again through her plenipotentiaries, sought to discredit the effect of the discovery of Columbia river by Captain Robert Gray, for the reason, as suggested, that his ship, the *Columbia*, was a *trading* and not a *national* vessel. This contention was speedily disposed of by Mr Buchanan with this remark:

"The British plenipotentiary attempts to depreciate the value to the United States of Gray's discovery because his ship, the *Columbia*, was a

trading and not a national vessel. As he furnishes no reason for this distinction, the undersigned will confine himself to the remark that a merchant vessel bears the flag of her country at the masthead, and continues under its jurisdiction and protection in the same manner as though she had been commissioned for the express purpose of making discoveries."

In this great and prolonged diplomatic contest, one of the most interesting questions discussed was as to what extent continuity of boundary furnishes a just claim in connection with those of discovery and occupation. This question grew out of the claim on the part of the United States that the Louisiana territory extended to the Pacific ocean. This claim was denied on the part of Great Britain. It was insisted, however, with great ability by Secretary of State Calhoun, and subsequently by Secretary Buchanan: *First*, that the claim was valid under public law, and, *secondly*, that Great Britain, having asserted the validity of the doctrine in reference to her possessions in this country as against France, even to the extent of going to war with that power in 1763, was estopped from denying the validity of the doctrine as against the United States, especially inasmuch as our people had contributed so much to a result in that contest favorable to Great Britain; and it was further contended by our diplomatists that Great Britain, whatever may have been her rights in Oregon territory, relinquished all to France by the seventh article of the treaty between Great Britain and France at the close of that war, in 1783.

The controversy in reference to the correct northern boundary of the Oregon territory, whether the forty-ninth parallel, as now agreed upon, except along the straits of Fuca, or 54° 40′ north, is one familiar to all. Spain unquestionably always asserted claim as far north as the sixty-first parallel, but in her treaty with Russia 54° 40′ was recognized. It was claimed, however, that by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, which provided for determining "the limits to be fixed between the bay of Hudson and the places appertaining to the French," the boundary between Louisiana and the British territories north of it was actually fixed by commissioners on latitude 49°. Whether this is true or not is a matter of very serious disputation. A careful examination of all history bearing upon the point leads me to the conclusion that such was not the fact.

In reply to the claim of the United States to go to 54° 40′, it was asserted that whatever might have been the right of Spain, the latter in ceding to France in 1800 stipulated to convey only

as far north as the forty-ninth parallel. To this contention the United States replied and with much force, and the contention should never have been abandoned: If this be so and if it be true the right of Spain is good to 54° 40′, then the strip between the forty-ninth parallel and 54° 40′, which it was alleged was not included in the cession of Spain to France in 1800, was included in the cession of Spain to the United States in the treaty of Florida of 1819, by which Spain conveyed every right she had on the continent north of the forty-second parallel. Mr Secretary Buchanan, in his reply to Packenham, said:

"It is an historical and striking fact, which must have an important bearing against the claim of Great Britain, that this Nootka convention, which was dictated by her to Spain, contains no provision impairing the ultimate sovereignty which that power had asserted for nearly three centuries over the whole western side of North America as far north as the sixty-first degree of latitude and which had never been seriously questioned by any European nation."

Subsequently to 1818 and down to the final settlement of the boundary question in 1846 the only material difference in the views of American statesmen and diplomatists was as to whether the rightful claim of the United States extended to 54° 40′ or only to the forty-ninth parallel. All concurred in the opinion that our claim was beyond question good at least as far north as the latter, while many of our ablest statesmen and diplomatists, strengthened and supported by a powerful sentiment among the people, insisted that our claim extended to 54° 40′. No one thing, however, nor indeed all other influences combined, did as much to strengthen the sentiment and belief in favor of our claim to 54° 40′ as the mission of Dr Whitman in 1842.

The Opening of the Oregon Route.

Frémont has been designated in history as "the Path-finder," and in some respects he is justly entitled to the pseudonym, but he was not the one who opened the great transcontinental trail to Oregon by way of Fort Hall. Fort Hall was the leading eastern outpost of the Hudson Bay company. It was located on Snake river about 100 miles north of Salt Lake City. "Here," says one historian, "many immigrant companies had been intimidated and broken up by Hudson Bay men, and so Fort Hall served as a cover to Oregon, just as a battery at the mouth of a river protects the inland city on its banks." Here it was that the

Hudson Bay people in 1836 made a determined but unsuccessful effort to prevent Whitman from attempting to go through with his wagon to Oregon, insisting it was a physical impossibility. The Tyler administration had promised to send Lieutenant Fremont and his company as an escort to protect Whitman and his 200 wagons and 1,000 men, women and children on his return to Oregon in the summer and fall of 1843, but failed to do so.

Whitman's expedition left Waldport, Missouri, in June, 1843, and although at Fort Hall, 1,323 miles from the starting point, a determined effort was again made by the Hudson Bay men to prevent further progress, insisting that it was impossible to go through with wagons, Whitman and his 200 wagons did go through and arrived at his home on Columbia river September 4, 1843. Frémont did not reach Fort Hall until October 23 of the same year, forty-nine days after Whitman and his expedition had passed that point; nor did Frémont arrive over a new trail but over the identical one, for a distance of some hundred miles, which Whitman, Spaulding and their wives had trodden seven years before. Dr Whitman left his home on the Columbia on this great mission October 3, 1842, and returned there September 4, 1843, after an absence of just eleven months.

The Organization of a Provisional Government in Oregon.

Following this successful expedition led by Dr Whitman in 1843 came the organization of a provisional government by the people then in the territory and the final settlement of the whole question by the treaty of 1846. At the time of the organization of the provisional government there was but one law book in all that region. This was a copy of the Iowa Statutes; and in the fundamental law of the provisional government there was this provision: "The laws of Iowa territory shall be the law in this territory in civil, military and criminal cases when not otherwise provided." Another provision which these brave, courageous, liberty-loving pioneers inscribed in their fundamental law was this: "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in said territory, otherwise than for the punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

Oregon, though added to the United States by the treaty of 1846, and created a territory, including what is now the states of Washington and Idaho, in August, 1848, had no territorial government until 1849. In March of this year its first territorial

governor arrived and organized a territory with 8,785 inhabitants. This territory was not dismembered until 1853, when the territory (now state) of Washington was carved out of it. It became one of the states of the union July 14, 1859, and in 1863 the territory (now state) of Idaho was set apart from its area.

Of all the public men of the country during the period of the early settlement of Oregon, no one seemed to grasp the real situation or so fully comprehend the vastness of the prospective interests at stake as Lewis Field Linn, United States Senator from Missouri. To his memory more than to that of any other public man of the time do the pioneer immigrants and the people of Oregon generally owe a tribute of lasting veneration.

The measure for which Senator Linn so vigorously and constantly labored prior to his death, in 1843, for making donations of the public lands in Oregon territory to citizens of the United States to induce immigration and settlement finally materialized in an act of Congress passed September 27, 1850. This act very largely facilitated immigration to and settlement in that country. One unfortunate incident, however, attached to this otherwise beneficent and highly commendable piece of legislation. While it facilitated immigration it tended also to facilitate marriage, not only among the immigrants, but between male immigrants and Indian women. By the fourth section of the act a grant *in præsenti* was made to any man who would reside on and cultivate for four consecutive years a tract of 320 acres of land if a single man and 640 if married. While under this provision settlement of the country was rapidly developed, it is nevertheless a fact, fully borne out by the records of the courts in that country within the next few years thereafter, that the premium paid on marriage resulted in an unusual and abnormal crop of divorces, as many marriages, especially those with Indian women, were based on no other or higher considerations than the mercenary ones offered by the act.

The Name Oregon.

There are various theories as to the origin and derivation of the name "Oregon." Some writers declare that it is derived from the Spanish, signifying "wild thyme," so called on account of the abundance of that herb found by early explorers. Others insist it is an Indian word, in use about the headwaters of the Columbia to designate the waters of that river and meaning the

"great river of the west," and obtained from them by Jonathan Carver, a native of Connecticut, in 1766–'68, who spent two years among the Indians on the waters of the upper Mississippi, now the state of Wisconsin. Carver's accounts, however, in reference to many matters, are contradictory and unreliable, though in reference to this he was quite likely right. It is more than probable that an article published fifty-three years ago, in 1842, in "Hunt's Magazine" and reproduced by the historian Brown in his political history of Oregon, presents the correct solution of the question. Speaking of Oregon territory and the discovery of Columbia river by Captain Gray, this article says: "The territory watered by this river and its tributaries has since"—that is, since the discovery of the river—"been called the Oregon territory from a tradition said to have prevailed among the Indians near lake Superior of the existence of a mighty river rising in that vicinity and emptying its waters into the Pacific, and which was supposed to be the Columbia." Bryant in his celebrated "Thanatopsis," written in 1815, refers to the Columbia river as the Oregon: "Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound save his own dashings."

Early News-carrying in and to Oregon.

It is a singular historical fact that the pioneers of Oregon territory down as late as the settlement of our northern boundary, in 1846, received most of their news from Washington by way of the Sandwich islands. A semi-yearly vessel also brought letters and papers around cape Horn, the news in which was necessarily somewhat stale. Lieutenant Howison in his report says:

"October 16, 1846, the American bark *Toulon* arrived from the Sandwich islands and brought news of the Oregon treaty, the Mexican war and the occupation of California. The right of ownership of the soil being vested by treaty, I no longer felt any reserve in hoisting our flag on shore, and it has been some time waving over our quarters on the very spot which was first settled by white men on the banks of the Columbia."

On the receipt of the news from the Sandwich islands, James Douglass, the chief factor of the Hudson Bay company and a pronounced Britisher, addressed the following letter to Governor Abernethy, of Oregon:

"FORT VANCOUVER, *November* 3, 1846.

"GEORGE ABERNETHY, Esq.

"DEAR SIR: Very important news for all parties in Oregon has just been received by the bark *Toulon* from the Sandwich islands. It appears

that the boundary question is finally and fully settled. * * * The British government has rendered more than strict justice required; but John Bull is generous, and was bound to be something more than just to his promising son Jonathan, who will no doubt make a good use of the gift. * * *

"Yours truly, JAMES DOUGLASS."

It was not until 1850 that the people of Oregon had a semi-monthly mail, through a service established between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

The first attempt at sending mail across the continent from Oregon territory was in 1838, fifty-seven years ago, when letters were carried from the Willamette valley, in Oregon, to Medport, Missouri, in sixty days, including two days' detention at Lapwai and two days at Fort Hall, carrying to Reverend Jason Lee, the Oregon missionary then in the east, the sad intelligence of the death of his wife in Oregon.

The first Printing Press west of the Rocky Mountains.

The first printing press in Oregon was received as a donation from the mission of the American Board of Foreign Missions in the Sandwich islands to the mission of the board in Oregon. It reached its destination at Lapwai, now the state of Idaho, then a part of Oregon territory, and was put in operation by Mr E. O. Hall, of the Sandwich Islands mission, and commenced publishing books in the Nez Percé language. This was in 1838, fifty-seven years ago. It was the first printing press west of the Rocky mountains. The first newspaper published within the limits of the present state of Oregon was established at Oregon City seven years later, in 1845. It was called the "Oregon Spectator."

The first white Birth and Burial.

The first white American child born on the Pacific coast was the daughter of Dr Whitman and wife, born near Walla Walla in 1839. On June 26, 1838, Mrs Maria Pitman, wife of the missionary, Reverend Jason Lee, died near Salem, Oregon. She was the first white American woman to close her eyes in death west of the Rocky mountains. Today, on an humble headstone which marks her last resting place in Salem, Oregon, may be read the following inscription:

"Beneath this sod, the first ever broken in Oregon for the reception of a white mother and child, lie buried the remains of Anna Maria Pitman, wife of Reverend Jason Lee, and infant son. She sailed from New York in July, 1836; landed in Oregon June, 1837; was married in July, 1837, and died June 26, 1838, in full enjoyment of that love which constrained her to leave all for Christ and heathen souls. 'Lo we have left all and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore?'"

Geographic Characteristics and Natural Resources of Oregon.

What, briefly, are the prominent geographic characteristics and natural resources and advantages of the state of Oregon? To enumerate, much less describe or discuss them would require a long series of lectures, each of which, to be properly understood and appreciated, should be fully illustrated. I may mention a few only of the most notable.

First, an area—and I speak now of the present state of Oregon—of 96,030 square miles, containing 60,518,400 acres, comprising every conceivable character of surface configuration; an area greater in extent by more than 6,000 square miles than all of England, Scotland and Wales combined, with their aggregate population of over 32,000,000; an area over eight times larger than Belgium, with its population of above 6,000,000, and but 6,000 square miles less than one-half that of France, with its 40,000,000 people.

This area consists of numerous and extended fertile valleys; mountain ranges, rich in minerals, both precious and base, whose sides are clothed with eternal verdure and whose peaks are crowned with eternal snow; forests unsurpassed in extent and in the number, variety and majesty of the trees composing them; immense fertile plateaus of everlasting green, on whose nutritious grasses feed 2,600,000 sheep, of the value of $6,000,000, and which produce annually over 17,000,000 pounds of wool, averaging, according to price, from $2,000,000 to $2,250,000; 250,000 horses, of the value of $7,000,000; 6,500 mules, of the value of $300,000; 125,000 milch cows, of the value of $3,000,000, and 1,000,000 oxen and other cattle, of the value of $12,000,000.

Then we have sandy deserts, gradually being converted into fruitful grain fields in virtue of the processes of irrigation; magnificent rivers, including the Columbia, the great father of western waters, the Snake, the Willamette, the Yamhill, the Tualatin, the Santiam, the Siuslaw, the Rogue, the Umpqua, the

Coquille, the Nestucca, the Nehalem, the Sandy, the John Day, the Link, the Lost, the Deschutes, the Umatilla, the Grande Ronde, the Powder, and others of less magnitude and significance, including innumerable streams, pure as the snow of the mountain sides whence they spring and filled with trout and other edible fishes; grand lakes, which mirror back in sublime beauty their mountain walls of granite, fringed with the waving branches of stately firs; extensive caverns, brilliant in stalactites and cooled by running mountain streams of living waters; and lastly, volcanic regions, bearing on their encrusted surface the very picture of desolation, thus far successfully defying the ingenuity of man and every effort at reclamation. It is gratifying, however, to be able to say that this character of configuration is confined to a very small area in southeastern Oregon, probably in all less than 1,000 square miles, known as the "Lava Beds." Here it was that General Canby and the Reverend Dr Thomas, peace commissioners, lost their lives while treating with the Indians, in 1872, an Indian desperado known as Captain Jack leading the murderous attack. Peace commissioner Colonel A. B. Meacham, an Oregon pioneer, was seriously wounded at the same time.

Oregon is divided north and south by three mountain ranges, separating the state into four tiers of fertile valleys. First, the Coast range, running parallel with the Pacific ocean the length of the entire state, and on an average distant some 40 miles from the coast, separating the Nehalem, Tillamook, Alsea and other coast valleys from the valley of the Willamette; second, the Cascade range, running also north and south parallel with the Coast range, distant from the latter on an average 75 to 100 miles, and separating the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue river valleys from the great Inland Empire in eastern Oregon, including the valleys of Umatilla, Ochoco and other grazing plains lying to the eastward; and, third, the Blue mountains, running from southeast to northwest, separating these valleys again from the magnificent wheat fields of the Grand Ronde, Powder river, Wallowa, Snake river and other valleys in the counties of Union, Baker, Grant and Harney, in the region in which are located La Grande, Union, Baker City, Ontario, Huntington, Canyon City, and numerous flourishing mining and commercial towns.

Again, the state is divided in the other direction by the Calapooia mountains, crossing the state from east to west, from the

Cascades to the Pacific ocean, about 150 miles from its southern boundary. Other minor ranges also intersect the state east and west, including the great Siskiyou range on the dividing line between Oregon and California.

The state contains more than 25,000,000 acres of arable land. The Willamette valley alone contains 5,000,000 acres. The whole arable area is greater than the one-half of the entire area of the six New England states. Over 10,000,000 acres (or about one-sixth of the whole state) are covered with forests, the greater portion as magnificent and valuable as any in the world of like species, the balance of the state being mountain, grazing, and desert lands, the latter of which can be nearly all made highly productive by irrigation.

The Mountain Peaks of Oregon.

The great mountain ranges of Oregon and their grand scenery are the pride of all her people and the wonder and admiration of every traveler who beholds them. Rising from the Cascade range, in the state of Oregon, in stately beauty and majestic grandeur, with summits penetrating the clouds and wrapped in everlasting snows, stand, like great sentinels on towering battlements, mount Hood, 12,000 feet in height; Jefferson, 10,200 feet; Black butte, 7,000 feet; Snow butte, 6,000 feet; the Three Sisters, 9,000 feet; Diamond peak, 8,807 feet; mount Theilsen, 7,000 feet; mount Scott, 9,125 feet; Onion peak, over 4,000 feet; and last, but not least, mount Pitt, or mount McLaughlin, as it is sometimes called, near the southern boundary of the state, 9,760 feet in height. These are all in the Cascade range and within the state of Oregon, and, commencing with mount Hood, the giant of the line and seemingly the commander of the column, located about 25 miles due south of Columbia river in the center of the Cascade range, they stand in a line running almost due north and south in the order I have named them, mount Pitt being near the California line. Mount Hood was named after Lord Hood by Vancouver's navigator, Lieutenant Broughton, in 1792. The exact height of this mountain, I believe, has never been accurately ascertained, the reported measurements ranging all the way from 11,000 to 18,000 feet. It is known, however, from more recent measurements, to be about 12,000 feet in height, or some 3,400 feet lower than Shasta, in Cali-

fornia, and mount Rainier or Tacoma, in Washington. Slightly east of mount Hood and but 70 miles distant, in what was once a part of Oregon territory, but now the state of Washington, stands mount Adams, 9,570 feet in height, named for John Quincy Adams. It is one of the five snowy peaks visible at the same time from nearly every point of northern Oregon. One hundred miles north of mount Hood and northwest of mount Adams, also in Washington, is mount Saint Helens, some 9,750 feet in height, a magnificent cone, which is said to be frequently in a state of eruption, and which is confidently said to have been (as also Rainier) during the past year. Mr J. Quinn Thornton, one of Oregon's earliest pioneers and chief justice of the territory, in his "History of Oregon and California," asserts it was in a state of eruption in 1831. Frémont records the fact that it was "in a state of activity November 13, 1843." The statement is well authenticated that in 1832 mount Saint Helens scattered ashes over the country to a distance of 100 miles, so obscuring the sunlight as to make it necessary to employ artificial light at midday that distance from the mountain. There is a perpetual flow of hot water at a point in its southern slope, indicating that the volcanic forces are not entirely extinguished.

The ascent of mount Hood from the south has been frequently made, and in more recent years by men and women numbered by the hundred. On July 4, 1887, members of the Oregon Alpine club of Portland, Oregon, carried to its summit 100 pounds of illuminating red-fire. The illumination lasted 58 seconds and was seen from Portland on the west, a distance of 60 miles, and Prineville on the east, a distance of 80 miles. The illumination was repeated in 1888, when it is asserted heliographic communications were exchanged with the Signal Service officers at Portland. In July, 1894, a party numbering about 180 men and women ascended to its summit in two separate columns, one from the north, the other from the south. This mountain has emitted smoke at intervals since the earliest settlement of the country.

Crater Lake.

No less interesting are the lakes of Oregon, which sleep in silent beauty in the icy embrace of the mountains, some of them hundreds and even many thousands of feet above the level of the sea. They are numerous and of interest as deep as their placid

waters; but the one which above all is romantically interesting and surprisingly wonderful is that known as Crater lake. It is located in the Cascade range, in southeastern Oregon, at an elevation of over 8,000 feet. Its rim or shore is 1,800 feet higher than mount Washington, in New Hampshire; 4,000 feet higher than Vesuvius, in Naples, and on the same elevation above the sea as mount Sinai, in Arabia. It was discovered in 1853 by gold prospectors from southern Oregon, who in their wonder occasioned by its strange location and startling beauty named it "Lake Mystery." Later another party from fort Klamath in visiting it were so awestricken with its peculiar character and its weird surroundings that they gave it a new name, "Lake Majesty." Subsequently, in 1886, scientific exploration developed the fact that the waters of this strange lake occupy the crater of an extinct volcano; that it is a gigantic bowl carved out of the mountain, whose rock-ribbed rim rises more than 8,000 feet above the level of the sea; that it is elliptical or oval in form, its surface covering an area of some 28 square miles, being about 6¼ miles in length by about 4½ in breadth. These discoveries led to a second change of name, and it is now and has been for several years past known as Crater lake. A few years since, mainly through the efforts of Representative Herman, of Oregon, this lake, including some twenty surrounding townships, was withdrawn from the public surveys and reserved as a national park.

It is one of the most remarkable lakes on the face of the globe. It is the deepest fresh-water lake in the United States, if not in the world. By reason of its phenomenal location and awe-inspiring surroundings it is unsurpassed in scenic grandeur and marvelous beauty by any other known to man. The day is not far distant when travelers, sight-seers, seekers after knowledge, students of nature, and lovers of the beautiful and the sublime of every tongue will come from all countries and every clime for the purpose of standing in the presence of its bewildering wonders, gazing on its entrancing mysteries, and feasting on the inspiration of its majestic beauty.

What is the explanation of scientists of this seemingly abnormal creation, which inspires awe and evokes mingled admiration and wonder in the minds of all who behold it? It is this: that there, in the departed centuries, once stood a giant volcanic mountain whose summit towered into the heavens to a height probably far above any other in the United States, if not in North Amer-

ica. This conclusion is based by scientists on well known geometric and geographic principles. It is determined in part by ascertaining the extent and angle of the rim of the crater and taking into consideration the general configuration and composition of all its surroundings. According to the Geological Survey the depth of this crater is 4,000 feet and of the water 2,000 feet over the greater portion—that is, from the rim of the lake it is from 1,500 to 2,000 feet down to the surface of the water, and the water is 2,000 feet deep. To add to the strange conformation and beauty of this phenomenal lake, located in a mountain cup whose rim is indeed *in nubibus*, there is a second crater within the main one, which looms up in a hollow cone 650 feet above the surface of the water. This is called "Wizard island," while still two more similar craters exist which do not reach the surface of the water, the top of the one being 450 feet below the surface and that of the other 825 feet.

One writer, Mrs Frances Fuller Victor, in her interesting and instructive book entitled "Atlantis Arisen," in speaking of this lake says:

> "One cannot, owing to the sunken position of the lake, discover it until close upon its rim, and I say without exaggeration that no pen can reproduce its image, no picture be painted to do it justice, nor can it for obvious reasons be satisfactorily photographed. At the first view a dead silence fell upon our party. A choking sensation arose in our throats, the tears flowed over our cheeks. I do not pretend to analyze the emotion, but if I were to endeavor to compare it with anything I ever read I should say it must be such a feeling which causes the cherubim to veil their faces before God. To me it was a revelation."

Captain (now Major) C. E. Dutton, in his report of the survey of this lake to the Director of the Geological Survey, says:

> "It was touching to see the worthy but untutored people who had ridden a hundred miles in freight wagons to behold it vainly striving to keep back tears as they poured forth exclamations of wonder and joy akin to pain, nor was it less so to see so cultivated and learned a man as my companion hardly able to command himself to speak with his customary calmness."

Did time permit, attention might be attracted to the many other interesting characteristics of this wonderland in Lake and Klamath counties, in southeastern Oregon. I might point to Upper and Lower Klamath lakes, to Link river uniting the two, with its valuable water power, having a fall of sixty-four feet in

a mile and a quarter and an average breadth of 310 feet; to Williamson, Sprague and Lost rivers; to the hot and cold mineral and non-mineral springs; to rivers which in great volume rise from and disappear into the earth; to the lava beds, and to the magnificent fertile plains where wheat is grown in abundance at an elevation of over 4,000 feet; but these and many other features must be passed over or barely mentioned.

The Oregon Caves.

Scarcely less wonderful than the mysterious Crater lake are the caverns of the Oregon mountains. The Josephine county caves, about thirty miles from the railroad southwest of Grant pass, will be found when thoroughly explored, it is believed by those who know most about them, to be as extensive and wonderful as is the Mammoth cave of Kentucky. These caves were discovered but a few years ago by a hunter named Elijah Davidson, who followed a bear to its lair in the lower cave. The entrance to each of the caves, one located higher in the mountain than the other, is about eight feet wide and seven feet high. They contain a great number of wonderful avenues, said to be miles in length, besides large numbers of chambers, grottoes, lakes, abysses and cataracts, and also innumerable chambers, large and small. The first chamber is ten feet in height. One, called "The Devil's Banquet Hall," is 150 feet in length by 75 feet in width and 60 feet in height. Its roof and walls are brilliant with hundreds of scintillating stalactites. The only exploration of these wonderful caverns has been by private parties. A thorough, scientific exploration should be made at an early day, and it is my intention to ask an appropriation from the next Congress for such purpose.

The Great Wheat-producing Inland Empire.

The vast fertile grain-producing valleys of Oregon are the Willamette, the Rogue river, the Umpqua, and that portion of what is known as the "great Inland Empire" which lies in eastern Oregon. The Willamette extends from Portland to the Calipooia mountains, 30 miles south of Eugene, a distance of over 150 miles in length by an average of 75 miles in width. This valley is famed as one of the most fertile and productive in the world. There is scarcely an acre of waste land in this

vast area of 12,000 square miles. It is a great Miocene basin; fossils of the Miocene age are found there in abundance. The greater portion of it is under improvement, but much of it is held in large tracts of 640 acres, being the donations made to settlers by the act of Congress of September 27, 1850. Nearly the whole of it is well watered by streams, a very small proportion requiring irrigation. It produces wheat, oats, barley, corn, all kinds of vegetables, and fruits in abundance. The Willamette valley is alone capable of sustaining a population of 5,000,000 souls, and even then the population would be but a fraction in excess that of Belgium to the square mile, and less than that of England by 102 to the square mile. The productive capacity of the Inland Empire in eastern Oregon is something wonderful. Thirty years ago not a bushel of wheat was raised in that entire empire, although across the line near Walla Walla some 300 bushels of wheat were raised by Dr Whitman at his mission in 1841; Commodore Wilkes, a portion of whose party visited this mission in that year, so reports. Twenty years ago the coming fall I left the Central Pacific railroad near Salt Lake and journeyed westward through northern Utah and eastern Oregon. The first wheat of any importance was grown in eastern Oregon that year. There was a three-acre lot located near where the town of Weston, Umatilla county, now is and immediately outside the boundaries of the Umatilla Indian reservation. The crop had been taken off before my arrival. The wheat stubble being so abundant, I was amazed and expressed surprise to my host, with whom I remained over night, that there should be such a fertile spot in this vast desert, as the whole country seemed to me to be little less than a desert. He smiled and replied that the tract on which this wheat had grown was the same character as land of the whole surrounding country, including the greater portion of the Umatilla Indian reservation. I obtained a sack and immediately outside of the field, digging down some 6 or 8 inches, filled it with a peck of soil. I brought it with me to Washington; took it to the late Professor Henry, then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and requested that he analyze it and tell me its properties and what good for. He inquired, "Where did you get this soil?" I replied, "West of the Rocky mountains." Professor Henry remarked, "That is rather indefinite." "But Professor," said I, "I shall not tell you whether it came from California, Oregon, the Willamette

valley or the top of mount Hood." He made me a very interesting report, in which it was stated that he regarded the soil as the best wheat-producing soil he had ever examined; that it contained properties very similar to the soil of Sicily, where wheat had been raised for 2,000 years without exhausting the soil. The report further stated that the soil was of such character that it would fertilize itself as cultivated; that it would not be necessary to let it rest after a crop or two, as in many portions of the country, or to fertilize it. The predictions made in that report have been amply verified. Two years ago I visited Umatilla county and what was formerly the Umatilla Indian reservation, and was told that there had been raised and harvested that year in that county alone over 4,500,000 bushels of wheat. That this single county will produce 5,000,000 bushels of the best quality of wheat the present year, or an amount considerably more than was produced in 1893 in any one of twenty-one different states in the Union, I have not the slightest doubt.

In addition, it is estimated that there will be shipped the present year from the city of Pendleton, the county seat of Umatilla county, located on the transcontinental railroad, 5,000,000 pounds of wool, while from The Dalles, the county seat of Wasco county, an equal quantity will be shipped. A large portion of the state, notably Umatilla, Union, and Baker counties, with several others in the eastern section, and Coos and Curry counties in the southwestern portion, are admirably adapted to sugar-beet culture. The beets grown here are said to yield a larger percentage of saccharine matter than those produced elsewhere; while 20 tons per acre is a moderate estimate of the annual crop.

The Forests of Oregon.

Another source of immense wealth in the state of Oregon is her forests. No state in the Union has a greater variety of valuable trees or fine woods. These include sugar pine and silver pine, cedar, red, yellow and white fir, redwood, and spruce of different varieties; ash, hemlock, maple, myrtle, white oak, laurel, alder, dogwood, wild cherry, hazel, chittamwood, and Oregon yew; three species of poplar—the quaking asp, cottonwood and balsam tree; live-oak and chestnut oak, nutmeg, tamarack, mountain mahogany, juniper, birch, box elder, and many other varieties. In addition, there are the vine maple, growing from

6 to 12 inches in diameter and from 12 to 30 feet in height; the Oregon crab-apple, which grows in groves, making the forest impenetrable for man or beast; and many other varieties. The Oregon cedar grows to an immense size. It is no uncommon thing in the forests of Tillamook and Coos counties, on the coast, to find vast forests of these trees 10 to 12 and very often 15 feet in diameter and from 200 to 250 feet in height. The Oregon sugar-pine grows to 250 feet in height, bearing cones from 12 to 18 inches in length. The mills of Oregon manufacture over 250,000,000 feet of lumber annually.

Game.

The forests of the state are filled with all kinds of game, including bear, elk, deer, grouse, prairie-chicken, pheasants, Chinese or Denny pheasants (a most delicious game bird, introduced from China by Honorable O. N. Denny, of Oregon, while United States consul-general at Shanghai), quail, and other varieties of game birds. The rivers and lakes are, during the summer, filled with game fowl, including canvas-back, and teal of excellent quality.

The Precious and other Metals.

No state in the Union is more highly favored in natural endowments than Oregon. Her resources, developed and undeveloped, are almost as varied as are the gifts of nature, and their value cannot be estimated. Her mines, though only partially developed, are rich in the precious metals, as also in iron, coal, nickel, copper, cinnabar, asbestos, tin, marble, onyx, limestone, sandstone, granite, and dolomite. A recent writer on the geologic formations of Oregon remarks that "the igneous rocks of southern Oregon are said to contain all the zeolitic minerals, and some geologists believe precious gems of no small worth."

Already more than $25,000,000 in gold have been taken from the placer mines in two counties in the state—Jackson and Josephine, in southern Oregon. Eastern Oregon is rapidly developing into a great gold and silver producing region. Capital only is required to make it one of the most valuable mineral fields on the Pacific coast.

Oregon has an abundance of the very best quality of iron ore. Clackamas county in particular abounds in this mineral. Ex-

tensive iron works are in progress at Oswego, in that county, located on the Willamette river 18 miles from its mouth and 7 miles from Portland, and large amounts of pig-iron are produced annually.

Grains and Fruits; Rivers, Harbors, Railroads, etc.

The resources of Oregon are not confined to her mountains or her rivers. Her valleys are fertility itself. Wheat, oats, corn, barley, hops, flax, hay and other grains and grasses; apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, prunes, cherries, nectarines, grapes and other varieties of small fruits and berries, are all products of her soil. The natural advantages of the state are all that could be desired. A seacoast of more than 400 miles, indented with numerous capacious bays and storm-protected deep-water harbors; the Columbia, the Tillamook, the Nehalem, the Yaquina, the Alsea, the Siuslaw, the Umpqua, the Coquille, Coos bay and port Orford, capacious enough to protect in safety all the navies of the world; a mighty river on its north draining a basin of 395,000 square miles, including its tributaries, which combine twelve degrees of latitude and thirteen of longitude. The main Columbia is navigable 725 miles from its mouth, with two interruptions—the first at the Cascades, 150 miles from the mouth, where there is a fall of 300 feet in four miles and where a canal and locks, being constructed by the general government, will be completed in the present year; and another at The Dalles of twelve miles, where the general government has taken steps looking to the construction of a boat railway. Willamette river is navigable for 140 miles; the Snake for 150 miles. The falls of the Willamette at Oregon City are estimated at 1,000,000 horse power; the fall is forty feet. Here a great electric plant has been established within the past two years at an expenditure of several millions of dollars, and this vast water power is being utilized in Oregon City and in Portland, twelve miles distant, in manufactories of various kinds and in electric lighting.

The Salmon Fisheries of Columbia River.

The salmon fisheries of Columbia river are the most extensive and profitable in the world, and a source of immense wealth. It is but thirty-three years since the first fishery for catching and

barreling salmon was established there, and not until 1867 was the first fish cannery erected, the purpose of the latter being to preserve salmon in cans—fresh, spiced and pickled. There are today some thirty-eight canneries on Columbia river, in which are invested more than $5,000,000 capital. More than 4,000 men are employed during the fishing season. Canned salmon are shipped by rail across the continent and by ships to all parts of the world. A cargo frequently is valued at a quarter of a million dollars, and single cargoes have gone out occasionally of the value of over $300,000. The salmon season commences in May and ends in August. The fish are caught mainly by drift gill-nets ranging in length from 120 feet to 600 feet. Many salmon are also taken by traps and fish-wheels.

In the single year 1880, 538,587 cases of salmon were canned on Columbia river, having an export value of $2,650,000. The average salmon weighs about twenty pounds, and they are packed three to a case, making a catch that year of about 1,600,000 salmon.

Salmon is by no means the only food-fish produced in large numbers in Columbia river. Sturgeon, flounder, smelt, tomcod, and salmon trout exist in abundance, and within the last few years shad weighing from three to four pounds have been plentiful. Other waters in the state of Oregon are full of salmon. Salmon fisheries are carried on extensively in Tillamook bay, Nehalem bay, Nestucca bay, in northwestern Oregon, and in the Rogue, Siuslaw, Coquille and other rivers in central and southwestern Oregon.

Dairy Interests.

Several of the coast counties, especially Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Douglass, Coos and Curry, in addition to their extensive and valuable lumber interests, and in some cases, notably Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Coos, their valuable coal deposits, are especially well adapted to dairying, and immense quantities of butter and cheese are annually produced.

Railroad Facilities.

In addition to the great facilities resulting from grand navigable water-courses and capacious coast harbors, with which Oregon is so bountifully blessed, the state is now no longer iso-

lated by reason of lack of railroad transportation facilities. The city of Portland, the metropolis of the state, with a present population of more than 80,000 people and an annual trade of over $140,000,000, is the western terminus of five transcontinental railroads—the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific in connection with the Oregon Short Line and the line of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, and the Canadian Pacific; besides these, several state railroads center here. In addition to this, the city of Portland is the head of ship navigation on the waters of the Columbia, located on the Willamette river 12 miles from its mouth, and to which ships of all nations, of whatever draught, steam and sail, come and go without interruption. The great warships of the navy, the *Baltimore*, the *Chicago* and the *Monterey*, have all been in her harbor within the past two years. But not only so, there are regular lines of first-class ocean steamers running weekly between San Francisco, California, and Yaquina bay, Oregon, connecting with the Oregon Pacific railroad, a first-class full-gauge road, now constructed and running regularly from Yaquina bay eastward across the entire Willamette valley, and which, I am credibly advised, will within the present year be extended to a transcontinental connection. Another line of steamers plies weekly between San Francisco and Coos bay, Oregon. A railroad is now under construction connecting Astoria, Oregon, with Portland and the great transcontinental lines of railroad. Other lines of railroad are being projected and built in Oregon, one connecting the valleys of the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue rivers with the waters of Coos bay on the Pacific ocean. The interior cities and towns of eastern Oregon are rapidly being connected with branch lines. This has already been done as to Weston, Athena, Heppmer and other important points.

Demand for the Nicaragua Canal.

The people of Oregon, although blessed with innumerable blessings and endowed with commercial advantages not common to states and people generally, nevertheless are in want of one thing. We want, our interests demand, and we must and will have at no distant day, a ship canal crossing the isthmus of Nicaragua. The interests not only of Oregon, but of the Pacific coast, of the whole nation, and of all the civilized nations of the

globe demand it. With one voice and with no uncertain sound should the people of all the commercial and civilized nations of the earth demand the speedy construction of this great work, so absolutely essential to the commercial necessities of the age and the proper advancement and promotion of the enlightened civilization of the century in which we live. We of the Pacific coast are no longer unimportant factors in the trade and commerce of the world. When Dr Marcus Whitman crossed the continent in 1842–'43 to save Oregon to the union, the trade of the Pacific coast with foreign or domestic ports amounted to nothing. To-day our trade with Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Cuba and Brazil, to say nothing of our trade with China, Japan and the Sandwich islands, amounts in value to more than $45,000,000 annually. Give us the Nicaragua canal and we will then stand erect in every element which constitutes independent commercial supremacy. Capable of meeting every home want of whatever nature, we become at once and forever a formidable competitor for our surplus products, not only in the home market, but in all the markets of the world.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I cannot better personify the state of Oregon than by employing the language of that gifted writer, the author of "Atlantis Arisen." She said:

"I know how, if I were a painter, I should personify the young giant Oregon. Lithe, strong, beautiful should he be, with Empire written on his brow and power tempered by mildness beaming from his eyes. Of fair complexion he, with tawny, blonde hair and curly, golden beard. His robe should be of royal purple, embroidered with wheat ears, and his crown of tarnished gold. His throne should be among the rugged mountains, with a lake at his feet, rolling yellow plains on one hand and smiling green valleys on the other. His sceptre, shaped like the tapering pine, should be of silver, set with opals, emeralds and diamonds. On his right should roll the magnificent Columbia, to which ships in the distance should seek entrance, and over his shoulder the white crest of mount Hood stand blushing in a rosy sunset."

The names and memories of the brave pioneer men and women who laid the foundations of empire in the wilds of Oregon deserve to be forever perpetuated, not only in their country's history, but in the reverential hearts and minds of the people of the present and all future generations. There is something

strangely dramatic, as also sublimely pathetic, in the strange scene of hundreds of men, with their wives and little ones, bidding farewell to friends, to home, to civilization, and starting on a journey with ox-teams a distance of 3,000 miles across a trackless waste, and over rugged, unexplored mountains, the way obstructed by numberless bridgeless rivers, yawning, desolate canyons and parched repellent deserts, with a view of establishing new homes amid all the perils incident to a wilderness inhabited only by savage men and beasts. Many of these brave men and women never lived to reach their destination, but fell by the wayside, like Hervey's ships, "that sailed for sunny isles, but never came to shore." But, leaving the lonely grave of the loved one in the desert, the body soon to be devoured by the hungry wolf of the plain, the brave column of survivors, sustained by Wordsworth's "amaranthine flower of faith," and, in the language of Milton, "finding new hope springing out of despair," moved on and on, and although, in the words of Southey, "no station is in view nor palm grove islanded amid the waste," they still press on and on, over burning deserts and trackless mountain steeps, until at last they rest in the cooling shades of "the continuous woods where rolls the Oregon."

As a factor in the civilization of America and of the age in which we live, Oregon as a state challenges attention. Civilization over two hundred years ago marshalled its battalions and took up its line of march in the Orient. Gathering strength with the steady advance of its conquering column, the tread of its victorious legions among the mountains and over the plains of the distant west signaled the rapid approach of the builders of empire; and though beauteous in its infancy, grand in the clear light of the Orient in the early morn of its existence, may we not expect that the state of Oregon will realize its grandest achievements amid the glories of accumulated splendor in the distant Occident?

It was truly a grand conception, a sublime thought, inspired by an almost supernatural prescience on the part of Coleridge when, more than half a century ago, he in his "Table Talk" gave utterance to this sentence:

> "The possible destiny of the United States of America, as a nation of an hundred million of freemen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred and speaking the language of Shakespeare and Milton, is an august conception.

The time is rapidly approaching when more than one hundred millions of freemen, breathing the pure air of liberty, inspired by one common sentiment of patriotism, sharing the blessings of a free country, upholding one flag, respecting and abiding by the same code of laws, honoring and revering the memories of the men who laid the foundations of the Republic, loving the same country and worshiping the same God, shall fill this great land from sea to sea with the glad anthems of a free, courageous, independent and happy people.

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